

STATINTL

Letters From The People

China Does What We Can't

Just yesterday we had to embark on a multi-billion dollar ABM system to save ourselves from the fearful Chinese dragon. Now we are becoming palsy-walsy. But China is going to demand that we get our whole warmaking machine out of Indochina. We can't decide whether we are sad or glad to realize that its voice is going to carry more weight than that of the American people, which has been crying out for just this consummation for a long time.

But we welcome anything that will effectively counteract the arrogance and unwisdom of the Pentagon and the CIA who seem hell-bent on usurping the powers of Congress and saddling the American taxpayer with the burden of endless war.

We search in vain for the reason. The governments we support in Indochina are oligarchies motivated by the narrowest possible self-interest. They are not pro-democracy or even anti-Communist. No principle is involved in what they do or plan to do. They would profess Communism or any other ism as blithely as they profess democracy, if it promised the means by which to perpetuate themselves. What have they done or would they ever do for America or the cause of democracy anywhere in the world? They reward us by striving to enrich themselves by making dope addicts out of your young men, who are sacrificing life and limb to "save" them from Communism.

So we find ourselves looking hopefully to our erstwhile enemy to do for us what we have been unable to do for ourselves through our elected Representatives in Congress. Not that Congress has not tried. It has outlawed the war in Laos, but the Pentagon and the CIA ignore the law and the Administration does everything possible to keep their clandestine war a secret.

Ray R. Henley

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'Prove You're Honorable'

What the Central Intelligence Agency is shrouded in basically is the shrug of American shoulders convinced that all the secrecy and covert activity is necessary. To take more on "faith," as Richard Helms asks us to do, is to further turn our backs on an agency that seems to exist outside the reach of the U.S. Government and its controls.

What Americans must assume is that the same President who looks earnestly into the TV cameras and promises to extract us from a monumental blunder initiated by this constitutionally questionable organization is at that very moment instigating other such manipulations in the "national interest" that could lead us right back into another Vietnam or Bay of Pigs or Laos (and what are they doing in the Congo?).

Perhaps the CIA is a necessary part of the system, but Americans are no longer blindly taking on "faith" honorable men devoted to service. We say prove you're honorable.

Ballwin

Geraldine Ferris